

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 192489 TOSEC 080359
ORIGIN NODS-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192489 TOSEC 080359

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), APER, CU

SUBJECT: WHO SHOULD HEAD THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION IN
HAVANA?

1. IN THE PAST WEEKS, I HAVE HAD THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCT A THOROUGH PERSONNEL SEARCH FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF HEAD OF THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION IN HAVANA. ALTHOUGH NOT AN AMBASSADORIAL POSITION, THIS JOB REQUIRES SOMEONE WHO CAN HANDLE BROAD SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITH THE CUBANS, RECEIVE VISITING AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN AND JOURNALISTS, AS WELL AS ESTABLISH A SMALL U.S. MISSION IN AN UNCERTAIN ENVIRONMENT AND ATTEND TO COMPLEX CONSULAR AND HUMANITARIAN MATTERS. SOME GOOD CANDIDATES WERE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CONSIDERATION FOR FAMILY OR PROFESSIONAL REASONS. I HAVE, HOWEVER, IDENTIFIED A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, LYLE LANE, WHO IS CURRENTLY DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AT OUR EMBASSY IN LIMA, WHO I BELIEVE WOULD BE GOOD.

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2. LANE, 51, HAS BEEN IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR 26 YEARS, MOST OF WHICH HAS BEEN SPENT IN LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS. HE IS AN FSO-1, AND BEFORE LIMA, HE WAS TERRY TODMAN'S DCM IN SAN JOSE. LANE ALSO HAD TOURS IN AID AND THE NSC, AND IN ADDITION TO BROAD SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, HE HAS HELD TOP ADMINISTRATIVE JOBS IN THE ARA BUREAU. HE SPEAKS FLUENT

SPANISH AND IS WELL REGARDED BY THE JUNIOR STAFFS AT THE EMBASSIES WHERE HE HAS SERVED.

3. I ASKED LANE TO COME TO WASHINGTON LAST WEEK SO THAT BEN READ, CAROL LAISE, PETER TARNOFF AND I COULD INTERVIEW HIM. WE ALL CAME AWAY WITH A FAVORABLE OPINION OF LANE'S PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS TERRY TODMAN'S AND BOB PASTOR'S FIRST CHOICE.

4. IF YOU AGREE, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE RECOMMEND LANE TO THE PRESIDENT IN A NIGHT NOTE. IF YOU WISH TO INTERVIEW LANE YOURSELF BEFORE SENDING HIS NAME TO THE WHITE HOUSE, I WILL GET HIM UP HERE THIS WEEK BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR PEKING.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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